

O M M A N D — ORNER—

SGT. MAJ. SCOTT SMITH

SERGEANT MAJOR, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

TREE COLLEGE! Sounds like an adver- as molasses in January" T tisement that you would see in the back of the Army or Navy Times. However, here at GTMO, free college is not a gimmick, but it can be a reality if you choose to invest some of your off time. So in this week's Command Corner, I would like to take the opportunity and enlighten you on a significant fact: It does not take 10 to 15 or even (CLEP) and DANTES 30 years to get your degree.

I started college some 30 years ago while I was still in high school. I had the opportunity to attend a summer semester at Penn State between my junior and senior years. Had I been able to come up with the money back then, I probably would have finished my degree before I entered the Marine Corps, but I believe everything happens for a reason. Over the following years, I have sporadically taken some college courses but was never assigned to a unit or duty station long enough to finish my degree (or at least that was one of my excuses), until my last assignment in Hawaii. Dec.15, 2011 was a day I will always remember, as I walked across the stage at the Blaisdell Arena in Honolulu with a diploma from Hawaii Pacific University in hand, thinking, "Why the heck did this take so long to accomplish?" The answer was very easy: because I kept making excuses to put off finishing my degree – deployments, time with the family, long work hours, any excuse I could come up with that justified me not going back to class. As I looked back over the previous two years (the time it took to buckle down), the sacrifices of those previous two years were well worth the end state.

So, as I walk around and talk to Troopers of the JTF I am amazed that a number of you are already pursuing a degree. However, what I find when I ask, "What are you doing here at GTMO to work on your degree?" are the typical answers of work schedules and "slow

internet. So then my follow up question is, "Have you gone to the Navy College Office over by the NAVSTA chapel and asked about College Level Examination Program Standardized Subject Tests (DSST)?" The normal reply to this question goes something like this: "I didn't know there was a Navy College Office (Base Education Office), and what is CLEP and DANTES?" This past

week, I went to the Navy College Office and spoke to Mr. Julio M. Garcia, the director of Navy College Office GTMO, andhe relayed some GREAT information along to me:

College credits can be earned in a nontraditional way, outside the classroom, by taking advantage of the CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and DSST (DANTES Standardized Subject Tests) exams offered at GTMO. These exams are free of cost to active duty personnel and are administered every month at the National Testing Center located on Chapel Hill, room 10. There are 33 CLEP and 38 DSST exam titles available. With these exams, it would be possible to fulfill most of the general education requirements common to an associates and/or bachelors degree nationwide. These requirements include English, math, natural sciences, social sciences, humanities and

There are approximately 3,000 colleges in the United States that accept these exams.

COMMAND on page 3

Cover: Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, the new commander of U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) stand tall on the top of Camp VI at Joint Task Force Guantanamo on Dec. 7 while talking with Army Col. John V. Bogdan, the Joint Detention Group commander, not pictured. During his visit to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Kelly toured the detention facilities, housing areas, and other places around both sides of the base. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

JOINT TASK FORCE

GUANTANAMO-



JTF Guantanamo

Commander Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr. **Deputy Commander** Army Brig. Gen. James Lettko Sergeant Major Marine Sgt. Maj. Scott Smith Office of Public Affairs Director Navy Capt. Robert Durand: 9928 **Deputy Director** Army Capt. Alvin Phillips: 9927 Senior Enlisted Leader Sgt. 1st Class Steven Petibone: 3383 **Command Information NCOIC** Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.: 3499

The Wire

Senior Editor Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Layout Editor Spc. Raechel Haynes Copy Editor Spc. Brian Godette Assistant Editor/Webmaster Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes

Contact us

Editor's Desk: 3651 Commercial: 011-5399-3651 DSN: 660-3651 E-mail: thewire@jtfgtmo.southcom.mil Online: www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil/wire/wire.html

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

NEWS FROM THE BAY

Reading bingo

Start reading and winning prizes.

Reservations

When was the last time you got a prize for

reading a book? Elementary school? The MWR

Community Library is hosting the Reading

Bingo event to promote reading. The contest

is open to adults and teens and runs through

March. For more information call 4700 or pick

up your reading bingo card at the library today.

Preparing for parties and events can be

very stressful. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to not have to worry about the big stuff? The

Bavview and the MWR have you covered.

They can provide tables, bounce houses,

catering, or DJ equipment. For more infor-

mation or to make your reservation, contact

Do you like paintball? How about capturethe-flag? Ever played both at the same time? GTMO's MWR is hosting Capture the Santa, Saturday at the Ground Zero paintball course. Players will attempt to capture Santa and Frosty figurines. Capture-the-Santa begins at 6 p.m. and goes to 8 p.m. Players can sign up for this event at the marina. This event is free of

Capture the Santa

A new way to dance

Want to learn salsa? Lessons are held every Saturday at the W.T. Sampson Elementary School gymnasium. There is a beginner class from 7 to 8 p.m. and an intermediate class from 8 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact gtmosalsa@yahoo.com or 84093.

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Ging at 75604 or 84414.

Once you take the exam, if you get a passing score, you could be waived from taking the actual college course. This saves time and money.

Preparing for a CLEP or DSST exam can seem a little intimidating if you've never experienced earning credit-by-exam before, but there are a lot of study material and practice exams available online through the Peterson's DoD/MWR Libraries for service members and study guides that in your quest to obtain your college degree. can be checked out at the MWR GTMO Community Library.

Education Center information for the Navy College Office at Guantanamo Bay

charge and open to all ages. FMI call 2345.

is located in Room 11 of the Chapel Hill

Being the sole education center on base, this office can assist active duty personnel of all service branches explore diverse voluntary education opportunities while stationed here. The services offered include academic planning and counseling, career interests and exploration, tuition assistance benefits, testing services and more. Mr. Garcia can be reached at 2227.

The time you spend and sacrifice here at GTMO can end up paying huge dividends You just have to seize the opportunities that exist. Lastly and as always, continue to take care of one another and do the right thing even when no one is looking.

A new way to bowl

Want to liven up your bowling experience? Come out and enjoy all-new Cosmic Bowling, now playing at Marblehead Lanes Bowling Center every Friday and Saturday night from 9 to 11:30 p.m. The scene features new cosmic lights and sound system, and attendees can request music on four new big screens. The \$13 cost includes two and a half hours of bowling and a shoe rental.

Cooking class

The MWR Liberty program is offering a free holiday cooking class at the CBO kitchen. The class will be held Thursday, Dec. 20 and starts at 4:30 p.m. This class is for unaccompanied service members.

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The WIRE is the official news magazine of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. It is produced by the JTF Public Affairs Office to inform and educate the Troopers of JTF Guantanamo through minimant educate the Hoopers of JTP Guardanian through news, features, command guidance, sports and entertainment. This DoD news magazine is an authorized publication for the members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The WIRE are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Joint Task Force Guartanamo. It is printed by Defense Logistics Agency Document Services with a circulation of 1,200.

ONLY AT GTMO by Spc. Brian Godette







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By Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

66 Here Comes the Boom," brought the boom!

Finally making its way back to the Downtown Lyceum after failing its first premier due to technical difficulties, this fun-filled sports comedy definitely brought tear-splashing laughs to the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay community.

This lively comical entertainment not only made my abdominal muscles contract from all of the hysterical crack-ups, but it also brought childhood education awareness and inspiration through the big screen.

Scott Voss (Kevin James, "Zookeeper"), former collegiate wrestler and now a 42-year-old high school biology teacher, looks to become a mixed-martial arts (MMA) fighter in an effort to raise money to keep the music class and other extra-curricular activities from being terminated.

Scott Voss starts out as a good-for-nothing teacher who cares more about his vacation days than his students. He constantly comes to work late, has numerous debates with Principal Betcher (Greg Germann, "I'm Not Dead Yet") and allows his students to do whatever they want while he takes a nap.

However, all of this slowly changes when he visits the music teacher, Marty Streb (Henry Winkler, "Click"), and experiences the beautiful sounds of a score played by the students and orchestrated by Streb. Voss is flabbergasted and astounded by Streb's teaching methods and techniques of inspiring the kids, but that still doesn't stop him from imposing a traffic duty job on Streb that was given to him by Principal Betcher.

Streb also shares a life-changing event with him, but Voss doesn't have a sympathetic reaction because his sentimental values left him when the kids stopped playing. Streb's family news doesn't affect him until the faculty has a meeting about budget cutbacks, starting with putting an end to the music program and resulting in Streb getting laid off and not being able to support his recently pregnant wife.

Voss sort of feels bad for him, and in an attempt to prove their principal wrong, he takes a stand for Streb and tells Principal Betcher that he and the rest of the of the

faculty will raise the \$48,000 needed to save the music class and Streb's job. However, since Voss came up with that idea, the other faculty members look to him to come up with the ideas of how to raise the money on his own. The only people who were really on Voss' side were Streb and Bella Flores (Salma Hayek, "Savages"), a fellow colleague who Voss has a crush on.

He tries numerous times to win her heart and fails to do so humorously.

Other hysterical moments and people in the film include his brother Eric Voss (Gary Valentine, "Jack and Jill") and his family of many kids with different personalities and his wife who he often fights with. Gary Valentine happens to be Kevin James' brother in real life (if you didn't already know that).

Another separate story that adds flavor to the film is Voss' second job as a night instructor for a citizenship class. Voss previously taught English to a diverse group such as the citizenship class but felt he needed to teach it again to help him raise money to save the school.

Voss gets the idea about fighting MMA when he reluctantly offers extra time to help Niko (Bas Rutten, "Sinners and Saints"), one of his immigrant students, get his citizenship. Rutten happens to be an actual MMA fighter who made a name for himself outside the ring as an actor. Voss arrives at Niko's house in the midst of him watching an MMA fight, and Voss learns that one of the fighters earned \$10,000 just for losing.

Now with the help of Streb and Niko as one of his trainers, Voss has his mind set on enduring pain and losing fights to help him raise the money.

Voss' concern grows even more for the kids when Malia (Charice, TV Episode "Glee"), one of his smartest students, comes to him crying because her father wants her to quit music to work with him in his restaurant. She expresses to Voss that music helps her memorize her schoolwork, and she wouldn't know what to do if she didn't have music in her life. He now realizes music plays a major role in the intellectual development of a child.

Voss quickly transforms from a bum to a role model – with one punch and body slam at a time – when his passion for helping Streb

and the kids grows.

This is an all around great movie for everyone to enjoy. A lot of people give little credit to comedies (including myself), but this comedy deserves all of the credit it deserves. I expected this movie to be funny from seeing Kevin James act in movies such as "Paul Blart: Mall Cop," but I didn't expect to be entertained the way I was.

Kevin James, who played a major part in producing and writing the film, successfully helped put this film together. I thought this film was constructed very well from beginning to end and left me with no questions. From a writing and film production standpoint, I know that it is very difficult to have three or four mini stories in one big story and explain them well enough to keep the focus on the main objective. I may have had a few disbeliefs at the end but totally bypassed them because of the way act three made me feel.

"Here Comes the Boom" left me laughing in one scene of the film and had me emotionally connected with an actor in another scene. Sometimes it was the scene right after, allowing the audience to go for a roller coaster ride while watching the film – which I think most films should be like, whether it's a comedy, drama, action or suspense.

Like I said earlier, this film is really funny and also inspirational to not only kids but adults as well. One of the lessons I took from this film is you always have to go for your dreams, even if you run into a brick wall in the process or a punch in the face like Voss did. The movie also had a couple of Christian values in it that I personally liked.

And last but certainly not least, I have to give credit to the director, Frank Coraci, who has only directed eight films but is widely known for directing the classic "Water Boy." I always say, "There is a thin line between funny and corny," but with Coraci's direction and help of the actors I thought most of the lines were authentic.

I enjoyed this film so much I think I will buy the Blu ray and watch the special features to learn more about how Kevin James started physically preparing for the role 14 months before filming and losing 70-80 pounds in the process.

I give this great film four banana rats!



Story by Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes

From now until March 31, 2013, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and Amy Roumell, the librarian for Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, are encouraging others with a reading bingo event.

Anyone wanting to participate can simply pick up the form at the MWR Community Library and begin reading.

"At the end of every month, anyone who has brought in their stub for completing a bingo will be entered into a drawing for an MWR gift certificate," Roumell said. "In March, anyone who has gotten all four bingos will be entered to win the \$100 gift certificate."

While many people read different genres of books, the contest includes a little something for everyone as well as an opportunity to continue growing.

"The bingo categories are so varied with categories where you can choose what you want and other categories to help you explore different genres," she said. "Even for those people that do read a lot, it helps to expand their reading horizons."

Many have different levels of reading, which can discourage many from participating. However, this contest is over an extended period of time and allows for all to be able to meet their goals.

"It gives everyone a chance to participate, whether they are fast readers or not," Roumell said. "Some people can read four books in a month, and others will read four books out of the whole four month period, and neither is wrong."

While the library has a summer reading program for children, many have been looking for something geared towards the adults and teens, she said.

"It's a way to get people to read," Roumell said. "Our summer reading program for kids is really popular, but I have a lot of adults say to me that they want to win prizes and have an organized reading program to." The bingo contest is also a way to spread the word and draw others into the library to find out everything they have to offer. "People don't know the number of things that we do have. We have over 22,000 items

in the library," she said. "We have DVDs, audio books, fiction and non-fiction books, and a children's collection so that we have something for everyone and every age." While there is no specific way to track how many people are participating in the reading bingo, the library does keep track of how many forms they have gone through. "We've had at least 50 or so people that have already picked up the cards," Roumell said. "Now we will see how many we get back at the end of each month." The library is open 365 days a year, including holidays and weekends, in order to be there for people living here no matter if they are foreign nationals, contractors, civilians, or family members, she said.

Pick up your READING BINGO card at the Library starting December 1!





Read Great Books, Win Great Prizes!

Open to Adults and Teens



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Deck the boats: Marina hosts parade

Storyand photos by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Since Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is on an island and bordered by water, what better way to celebrate the holiday season, with a little bit of local flavor, than with a boat?

With the holiday season in full swing and Christmas fast approaching, GTMO has already seen a traditional parade, tree lighting and decorating, and a holiday concert, with more to come, so it just seemed fitting to bring some cheer to the water.

That is just what the naval station's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marina did on Saturday night - hosting its annual boat parade as approximately 15 boats of all kinds cruised around Guantanamo Bay while dressed up in lights, trees and other

The parade kicked off shortly after 6 p.m. with a few boats taking off from the marina to meet up with some boats already out on the water. Participants could decorate their own boat or rent a boat from the marina to decorate. They brought out pontoons, speedboats, and even a couple of yachts.

The route for the parade was two or three loops around the bay, between the homes of Navy Capt. J.R. Nettleton, naval station commander, and Rear Adm. John Smith, the Joint Task Force Guantanamo commander.

The colorful and brightly lit flotilla made its voyage out one end of the bay, turned and went across the water, and then turned around again and crossed in front of the marina. This routine took place a couple of more times before the boats heading back to their landings.

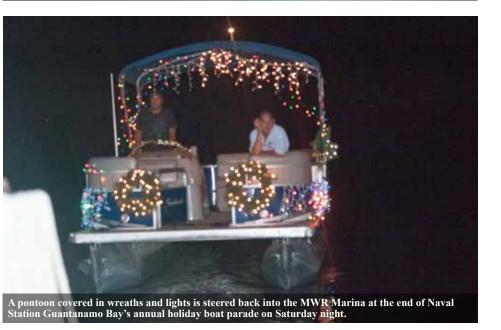
An audience of mostly parents with young children looked on from the patio of the marina or ventured out on the docks, perhaps to take a spot on one of the boats still tied down. They kept watching as a couple of the boats drifted back into the marina at the start of the second loop.

During the parade, the on-lookers enjoyed some hot cocoa and cookies, and the enjoyment of refreshments continued with those docking and bringing boats back to the marina. Some of the parade watchers trickled out of the marina area as the boats started trickling in.

A tree, lights and decorations are already up on Christmas Tree Hill on Sherman Avenue, and the light poles have been decorated for several weeks now, but the boat parade – unique to Guantanamo Bay – shows GTMO really is in holiday spirit now.









Liberty Half Court Shoot-Out Competition (Available to unaccompanied, active duty)

Food & Refreshments Provided

Awards distributed at conclusion of tournament

CLASH OF THE TITANS

tory and photos by Spc. Brian Godette

The glorious battle of military football rivals is one of the better ways to describe the age-old rivalry of Army and Navy in the game of football. Saturday afternoon, the nation watched as the

Army Black Knights battled the Navy Midshipmen in the Commander in Chief tournament, one of the most anticipated college football games of the year. For an 11th straight year, the Navy Midshipmen pulled out a victory over the Army Black Knights, leaving no diminished attitude towards the military rivalry.

The respectful military rivalry between Army and Navy was shown here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay on Dec. 6 in no lesser focus a few days prior to the Army

Navy and Army Troopers clashed in a double crowd. With lively music being played over our coach was really tough on us," said Petty header flag football game with bragging rights the speakers and the concession stand cater- Officer 2nd Class Dereon West, a member of as the best reward that could've won.

and a lot of people are out here. I'm ready and the women's Army versus Navy flag wins games."

Oliver Cole said.

lucky raffle winners, and the W.T Sampson The women's Army and Navy team showed

Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Provost, quarteback for the Navy men's flag football team looks down field for a reciever as pressure from the Army team rolls his way.

to have some fun," Petty Officer 2nd Class football game was set to kick the evening off.

As the ladies from each respective team Cooper Field was the place to be, as met at center field for the coin toss, roars GTMO residents and Troopers poured into of "Go Army! Beat Navy!" and "Go Navy! the stands to get a good seat for the show.

Recliner seats on the sideline were set up for

a flip of the coin, the game was under way?

the power of a strong defense. leaving each other scoreless for three quarters despite amazing highlights from a solid offensive lineup. With just a few minutes left in the fourth quarter, the women's Navy team found the end zone and put six points on the scoreboard, The women's Army team had one last chance to battle for a victory but fell short despite a tremendous effort. Victory

Navy. "I feel good.

versus Navy college football. GTMO's own school band was geared up to entertain the We got a good month of practice in, and ing to needs of the crowd, the excitement the winning women's Navy flag football team. "I'm very excited. It's a pretty big deal, began to grow as the 7 p.m. hour approached "It all turned out to be a good game. Defense

The time now was 8:30 p.m., and the crowd was full of anticipation to see the next match-up of the men's Army versus Navy flag football game. Playful trash talk amongst the Army and the Troopers in the stands became louder and funnier as the men's game got started. The level of seriousness

on the faces of the players, however, depicted a level of control and a will to win. The atmosphere grew to championship caliber as Rear Adm John Smith, commander of Joint Task Force Guantanamo, officiated the coin toss and the game was

West added that the win would provide

great momentum for the upcoming men's

"It's a Navy pride thing because this is a naval station, and it is good to get that win going into the new year," West said.

"I feel like the ladies did a great job stepping out here and setting the tone for the evening. The main event is now, the heavy- offensive highlights from each team, but weight bout if you will," Petty Officer 3rd focused defenses kept the score tied going Class Brian Jeffries said.

The Army, who suffered a tough loss with with four sacks, was one of the culprits who Victory Army.

the men's game, came out the gate fired up. A level of ferocity and high adrenaline oozed all over the field. A few quick passes that there. If you leave the game with any doubt led to big gains created a steady tempo for the Army Black Knights flag football team, who struck blood first with a pass reception

the women's team right before the start of added to the strong defensive effort during the entire game.

> "It's crunch time. Time to leave it all out you didn't give it your all, how can you sleep at night?" Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Benton Jr., Army wide receiver, said during halftime.

> > "I feel it's pretty even right now. This rivalry is important. A lot of rich history, and it's a tradition. Even though it's competition, it's all in love and fun."

> > > The closeness of the game created an even more tense and rowdy crowd feeling. No one knew where the

game would go, despite their own preference.

With both teams putting up more points Midshipmen flag football team struck back in the second half, it wasn't until the fourth and found their rhythm, getting into the end quarter that the Army broke away and tried zone on a strong, after-the-catch effort from to hold onto a lead. In a reversal of the women's game prior, it was the Navy who The first half saw an assortment of had just one more chance with the time fleeting to make a run for the victory. The Army pulled up a big defensive stop and clinched the game, splitting the bragging rights. into the second half, Jeffries, who led Navy



It's poetry in motion, as the men's Army flag football team initiates an offensive play and players react during the Army vs. Navy flag football game at Cooper Field Dec 6.

It wasn't long before the Navy

touchdown.

Teffries.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Gerald Provost, the Navy quarterback, makes a rushing play with defenders coming.







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Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

 $\mathbf{F}^{ ext{orty-one}}$ years ago, 1971 to be exact, a young 'devil dog' set foot on Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. This Marine private first class performed his duties here on the island and then moved on.

He was later discharged as a sergeant in 1972 after serving in an infantry company with the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was commissioned in 1976 after graduating from the University of Massachusetts, and his career continued to progress. He returned to the 2nd Marine Division and carried out duties such as a rifle and weapons platoon com-

mander, company executive officer, assistant operations officer, and infantry company commander.

He would continue to take his career higher by completing military schools such as the U.S. Army's Infantry Officer Advance Course in Fort Benning, Ga., the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School for Advanced Warfare and the National War College in Washington, D.C.

He took on such positions as commander of a rifle and weapons company, head of

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the offensive tactics section, director of the to include Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Infantry Officer Course, commanding officer for the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance and on Friday, he came back to GTMO to Battalion, commandant's liaison officer to the U.S. House of Representatives, special assistant to the supreme allied commander, assistant chief of staff G-3, commanding general and senior military advisor to the Secretary of Defense, just to name a few, all the while moving up to the rank of general.

As of Nov. 19, he assumed command of U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), relieving Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser.

He is now responsible for commanding SOUTHCOM's five component commands, one direct reporting unit and three task forces own tour around the island.

This man is Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, visit the Troopers and to take an in-depth tour guided by ITF's command element.

Coming off the airplane, he and his wife were first greeted by JTF Guantanamo Commander Rear Adm. John Smith Jr.

Briefly stopping for group photos with Kelly's personal four-star red and white flag alongside the American flag in the background, the entourage made its way to the Windward Side.

Kelly's wife, Karen, and other GTMO commander's wives parted ways, taking their

> The four-star's first visit was set up so he could visit his fellow "devil dogs' at Marine Hill. Without hesitation, Kelly approached the platoon of Marines and Marine 1st. Sgt. Jonathan D. Martin, senior enlisted leader for Marine Corps Security Forces Company, rendered his salute to the four-star general and stepped to the side so Kelly could talk to the Troopers.

> man," Martin said. "So for him to take the time out to talk to the Marines says a

> > **F**EATURE

"The general is a busy lot about his character."





Martin emphasized how none of the conversation with Rajkumar. Marines standing tall in the platoon were officers but were mostly lance corporals and lower enlisted.

Kelly could relate to them even more, explaining to them that he was once here as a private first class.

"I was here before your first sergeant was born," Kelly said, making the young Marines feel comfortable.

Martin said his Marines loved the time they spent with Kelly.

"It's not too many times a 'devil dog' gets time to talk to a four-star," Martin said.

After Kelly spoke a few words with the Marines, Martin assumed his previous position in front of the platoon and rendered a salute to the general to take over the formation again.

Next, the general was given a bird's eye view of Camp X-Ray. Smith, alongside Brig. Gen. James C. Lettko, deputy commander of ITF Guantanamo, explained the origins of the camp and its previous purpose in connection with the detainees.

Next stop would be the Tierra Kay (TK) housing area to see how one of the rooms looked and to visit some of the Soldiers in the 525th Military Police Battalion.

When Kelly approached the TKs, standing afar at the position of attention was Army Cpl. Amanda V. Rajkumar, human resource specialist, and Army Cpl. Francis A. Pallone, information technology specialist.

The general was supposed to see a vacant room in the housing area, but he wanted to see a room that a Trooper actually stayed in.

"Sure, why not," Pallone said after Kelly asked if he would mind showing his room.

Pallone said he anticipated the general seeing his room so he made sure his room was clean.

"He asked us where we're from, about our living conditions around here, if we like it," she said. "For the most part, he was asking us about our family."

Raikumar said she told him that she was from New York City, and Kelly was concerned about her family's well being from Hurricane Sandy's aftermath.

When they all reached Pallone's living quarters, Pallone let him in and Kelly held a conversation right in Pallone's shared kitchen

Kelly was impressed about how neat Pallone's room and living area was and joked around with Army Sgt. Maj. Eric J. Geressy, SOUTHCOM command senior enlisted advisor, about how their rooms were when they were around Pallone's age

"I expected him to be stern," Pallone said. "He ended up being cool. They were both

Both of the corporals were nervous at

first because they said they had never met a four-star general before but thought his visit was exciting and were glad their company chose them.

After Kelly left Rajkumar and Pallone, he went to visit a couple of more Troopers who live in the Camp America housing area.

"He wanted to know how we live in Camp America and how our chain of command treats us," said Spc. Anyermar Zapata, military police officer with the 755th Military Police Company.

Zapata also had a chance to meet Kelly's wife and she said her concerns were similar to the general's and wanted to know things like how often she gets to speak to her family.

Kelly had conversations with another Soldier in the 755th as well – Spc. Caleb Velez - who is a health care specialist (combat medic).

Lunch was next on the itinerary at the Seaside Galley, where Kelly and Geressy ate and talked with Troopers.

After lunch, the Joint Detention Group commander and officers in charge of Camps V and VI gave him a tour around the detention facilities, letting him know how the detainees are being treated and what standard of procedures they follow for their stay.

And the hospital corpsmen who work for the Joint Medical Group explained to the general how they medically treat the detainees.

Kelly received a thorough tour around both camps and got to see how the two

The rest of his journey consisted of how the rest of GTMO works, to include the Expeditionary Legal Complex.

Kelly spoke with a few Troopers and some of the command element wives that were with Karen before he departed to the

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Spc. Raymundo Figueroa **Trooper draws** discipline from passion

Trooper Focus

Story by Spc. Raechel Haynes Photos by Army Sgt. Trisha Pinczes

Astering an art or skill can take years of dedicated learning and practice. In this day and age, it can be difficult to find someone who is truly dedicated to something. People follow fads and trends, but fads and trends fade and people can lose interest. This could not be said of Spc. Raymundo Figueroa of the 125th Military Police Battalion of the Puerto Rico National Guard.

Figueroa knows the meaning of true to hit someone or bully them."

dedication and discipline and brings it to his life in Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. He has a Master's degree in finance and management, has served in the Puerto Rico National Guard for 12 years, and has a black belt in aikido. All these accomplishments didn't just fall into his lap. He worked very hard to earn them.

Figueroa worked part-time for Sears and worked towards his bachelor's degree in account-

ing. Once he had earned his degree, he started working full-time for Sears, and in two years became a manager at a shipping warehouse. During that time, he worked on his Master's degree. He started learning aikido in July 2005.

"I chose aikido because everybody can learn it no matter what age," Figueroa said. "All the different martial arts don't always make it easy to practice because you always have to be 'this' strong, or 'this' flexible, but not aikido."

Aikido has several translations, but it is roughly translated to mean "way of unifying life energy" or "way of the harmonious spirit." Figueroa uses aikido keep himself physically fit, and he also uses it to focus his mind and help him deal with stress. Aikido

is a martial art that focuses on maintaining a calm mind during a fight and using your opponent's momentum against him. It bears similarity to martial arts like judo and kendo. Most people know of aikido as the martial art practiced by movie star Steven Siegal. Figueroa doesn't use his skills for quite the same thing as the actor does.

"We teach that martial arts are about discipline," Figueroa said. "Not about being a superhero or a bully. I have a black belt, but I'm not Superman. The belt is not a license to hit someone or bully them."

and you got your black belt, you took an oath that everywhere you go, you would keep practicing aikido," Figueroa said. "So when I came here, I kept practicing and [asked a couple of the people] I work with if they want to practice."

Figueroa now teaches a class of about three people. A small class size makes it easier to focus on the needs of the student. Figueroa is able to spend more one-on-one time with students and ensure that they have the kata, or form, down correctly. Another reason for the small class size was the lack

of space available. It proved to be quite a challenge to find space and mats for the class. After checking with the various gyms, Figueroa found a space at the Denich Gym. Figueroa said that if he was offered

a bigger space he

would teach a big-

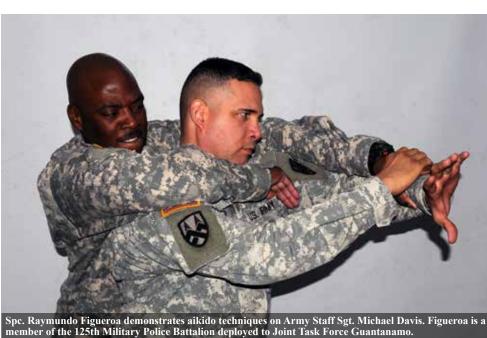
ger class.

So what drives a person to lead such a disciplined lifestyle? In Figueroa's case, it is his family. Many people in Figueroa's family have served in the military. His father, grandfather, and

father-in-law all served in the military. One of his greatest inspirations is his son, Alexander.

"He was born with cerebral palsy and he can't speak very well, but he understands everything and he never stops trying," Figueroa said. "When he was born the doctor said. 'I'm doing all I can, but if he wants to live, he needs to survive the next 24 hours.' Now he is 18. I have a Master's degree but he teaches me a lot."

Figueroa will get the opportunity to see his son in the near future. His wife and son will be spending Christmas in GTMO with him. Figueroa looks forward to their visit and can't wait to see how his son has progressed in learning to walk. Together they both will continue to dedicate themselves to improvement and learning.



In the military service members learn about discipline, but sometimes throughout our military careers forget the methods of maintaining self-discipline. Figueroa has used the discipline he has learned through his cho-

sen martial art and applied it to his military career.

"The discipline gained from his passion towards martial arts overflows to his commitment and dedication as a citizen-warrior for the past 12 years." Army Master Sgt. Luis Cora of the Joint Detention Group Plans and Force Development shop said. "He prefers not to engage in any risk behavior and spend his time sharing his martial arts skills."

Now he teaches others a way to hone their self-discipline.

"When I was in my class in Puerto Rico

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The Army Song

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free. Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory. We're the Army and proud of our name! We're the Army and proudly proclaim: First to fight for the right, And to build the Nation's might, And The Army Goes Rolling Along. Proud of all we have done, Fighting till the battle's won, And the Army Goes Rolling Along. Then it's hi! hi! hey! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong; For where'er we go, You will always know That The Army Goes Rolling Along. Valley Forge, Custer's ranks, San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks, And the Army went rolling along. Minute men, from the start, Always fighting from the heart, And the Army keeps rolling along. Then it's hi! hi! hey! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong; For where'er we go, You will always know That The Army Goes Rolling Along. Men in rags, men who froze, Still that Army met its foes, And the Army went rolling along. Faith in God, then we're right, And we'll fight with all our might, As the Army keeps rolling along. Then it's hi! hi! hev! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong; For where'er we go, You will always know That The Army Goes Rolling Along. Then it's hi! hi! hey! The Army's on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong; (two! three!) For where'er we go, You will always know That THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG! (keep it rolling!)

And THE ARMY GOES ROLLING

The National Guard Song

I was a minuteman at Concord Bridge The shot heard 'round the world and I was there on Bunker Hill When "Old Glory" was unfurled And when my country called me From within or from afar I'll be first to answer Proud to be the Guard **Defending freedom** protecting dreams This is the spirit of what it means to me For my God and my home that I love I GUARD AMERICA And in the eyes of my enemies Or the eye of a storm I face the dangers as they come In any shape or form I am your sons, your friends, your fathers snd your daughters working hard To be the best and keep us strong Proud to be the Guard Defending freedom protecting dreams This is the spirit of what it means to me For my God and my home that I love I GUARD AMERICA Defending freedom protecting dreams This is the spirit of what it means to me For my God and my home that I love

I GUARD AMERICA

Guarding AMERICA

AMERICA

The Air Force Song

Off we go into the wild blue yonder, Climbing high into the sun: Here they come zooming to meet our thunder, At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun! (Give 'er the gun now!) Down we dive, spouting our flame from under, Off with one helluva roar! We live in fame or go down in flame. Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force! Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder, Sent it high into the blue; Hands of men blasted the world asunder; How they lived God only knew! (God only knew then!) Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer Gave us wings, ever to soar! With scouts before And bombers galore. Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force! Here's a toast to the host Of those who love the vastness of the sky, To a friend we send a message of his brother men who fly. We drink to those who gave their all of old, Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold. A toast to the host of men we boast, the U.S. Air Force! Zoom! Off we go into the wild sky yonder, Keep the wings level and true; If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder Keep the nose out of the blue! (Out of the blue, boy!) Flying men, guarding the nation's border, We'll be there, followed by more! In echelon we carry on. Hey! Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!



Story and photos by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

A variety of cultures and denominations Came together at the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Chapel on Dec. 6 to celebrate the meaning of Christmas through a number of songs and performances.

It was the 2012 Holiday Cantata hosted by the naval station Command Religious Program, and it featured groups from the different services hosted by the chapel spreading the holiday spirit by presenting a night of holiday songs.

Navy Lt. Tung Tran, a naval station chaplain, started the night off by welcoming the audience, which included Troopers from the naval station and Joint Task Force Guantanamo, civilians, and other community members.

"We wish you an enjoyable evening," he said, before Cmdr. John Dickens, the naval station command chaplain, delivered the opening prayer.

First up for performances was the children's chapel services choir singing "Friendly Beasts" and "Look Up" and recalling the first Christmas night, with some of the young members wearing angel wings and halos and others wearing masks to look like barn animals.

Next, Tran led the audience in singing the traditional Christmas song "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Then, the 1300 Gospel Choir, which included some JTF Troopers, performed an upbeat number called "Emmanuel." The group included Army 2nd Lt. Dugan Turnbow on guitar and Spc. Ardell Henderson on piano, with Navy Lt.

FEATURE



Navy Lt. Tung Tran, a naval station chaplain, leads the audience in singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" during the 2012 Holiday Cantata.

Fagwenlanida Walker, Spc. Juan Serrano, Spc. Heida Diaz, Army Sgt. Paula Felder, and Army Sgt. LeKensha Wilson providing vocals.

Henderson said he enjoyed seeing the Holiday Cantata and also enjoyed being a part of the musical night.

"It was awesome. It was great to see everybody come together. It was a great performance," he said, adding that his group had been rehearsing for only the past two weeks. "Everybody came together. We've got a great group of people."

The group included Army 2nd Lt. Dugan
Turnbow said he is new to playing at the
GTMO worship services, something he does
Henderson on piano, with Navy Lt.
Turnbow said he is new to playing at the
GTMO worship services, something he does
when he is at home, and said he enjoys doing

that as well as playing at events such as the Holiday Cantata.

"It was fun," he said. "This is a really good event to try some different things. It gets me back to what I'm used to. I really am having fun."

Lord Reigns International followed with a rousing interpretive dance to the song "You, You are God," and then Pentecostal Gospel Temple performed the hymn "Long Time Ago in Bethlehem" with accompaniment from guitar and drums. Next, Our Lady of Cobre Choir sang "Holy Darkness."

After that, Tran once again led the audience in a song, this time "Silent Night." Then Hospitalman Melody Smith sang a solo to "Salvation is Born" with a guitar player backing her up.

Next up was Guantanamo Bay Christian Fellowship singing "Born that We May Have Life," and then United Jamaican Fellowship performing "Christ Came to Earth Born in a Manger" with members putting a spin on the rhythm taken from their own culture.

The Seventh Day Adventists delivered another cultural touch by performing the African-American spiritual "Go Tell It on the Mountain." Tran closed out the evening by leading the audience in "Joy to the World."

Before he delivered the benediction, Tran reminded the audience that the songs they just heard represent the true meaning of Christmas and the holiday season.

"And those are the reasons for the season," he said. "Those are the reasons for our joy."

Following the Holiday Cantata, audience members and performers were invited to the chapel's fellowship hall for refreshments.

376th National Guard Birthday Extravaganza

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Liberty class adds a pinch of Hanukkah

Story and photo by Spc. Raechel Haynes

In your mind's eye, what do you see when Lyou think of a cooking class? Do you see a professional kitchen with a couple of tables and chairs and a live band, like Emeril Lagasse? Or do you see a stainless steel classroom kitchen and aprons? Here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, things are done a little differently.

If you were to walk into the Liberty Program's Hanukkah cooking class, you might think you are in your grandmother's kitchen watching your family prepare a meal together. While it may not be your grandmother's kitchen, it is your extended military family preparing a meal together.

The GTMO Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Liberty Program hosted a Hanukkah cooking class Tuesday evening at the Marine Hill Liberty Center. The class was taught by MWR Liberty Program Manager time. Katie Stanley.

Stanley taught participants how to make potato latkes and homemade applesauce. Participants peeled and cut apples, peeled and grated potatoes, chopped onions and fried their own latkes.

pancake and hashbrowns. They can be served with sour cream, applesauce or whatever toppings seem appropriate to the dinner.

"I happen to know how to make potato latkes," Stanley said. "I learned from my mother. She loved making them because we all got to help and it became a family event."

The family-like atmosphere became slightly competitive as the participants tried to make the best latkes. In the end, it didn't



latke mix during Tuesday's cooking class.



"It was a good experience," Army 1st Lt. David Tu said. "It was my first time making latkes. It was interesting to learn about the culture. Everything tastes better when you make it yourself."

This isn't the first cooking class the Liberty Latkes are somewhere between a potato Program has hosted. Stanley said that their Puerto Rican cooking class was nearly full. Next Tuesday, they will host another holiday cooking class where participants will learn how to make a buche de Noel or a Yule log as its commonly called.

> "We are focused on the 12 days of Christmas and didn't want to skip those who celebrate other holidays," Stanley said. "We try to bring in awareness of all cultures. We were looking at our calendar, and we had the space to fill. I thought, 'Well we have a

cooking class geared towards Christmas. Why not do one geared towards Hanukkah?""

Hanukkah is one of the more well known Jewish holidays and latkes are popular Hanukkah fare. The oil in which they are cooked is symbolic of the oil that lit the Second Temple of Israel for eight days.

GTMO as a whole may not celebrate Hanukkah for the full eight days, but the Liberty Program provided Troopers a peek into the culture of Hanukkah and a chance to enjoy a family-like atmosphere.

The Liberty Program as a whole is geared towards giving unaccompanied service members opportunities to enjoy their time in

"I got to meet some cool people," Army Capt. David Plotke said. "I can't wait for the next holiday cooking class."



Making a Budget and Checking it Twice

By Lara M. Tur, Education Services Facilitator, Fleet and Family Support Center

The holiday season is here! Military Saves **L** would like to offer helpful ways to keep everyone this holiday season financially healthy and avoid the overindulging when it comes to our

1. Make a budget and a list: Right now, decide how much you can afford to spend and stay within that budget. Staying within budget will be much easier if you make a price list of all gifts and other holiday items you plan to purchase. Even if it's a more general rather than detailed list, it will still help you avoid overspending and impulse buys.

2. Check it twice: Make sure your list includes not only gift or gift recipients, but also all the projects and activities that make up your holiday. It's easy to overlook extra expenses for holiday foods, party clothes, holiday décor and postage.

Examine each item and ask yourself, "Does it earn its place in our celebration?" You might discover how much you're doing just out of habit or perceived expectation.

3. Comparison shop: You can easily save more than 10 percent on most items, sometimes considerably more, by comparing prices at different stores. The Internet and smart phones have made comparison shopping that much easier.

But when shopping

online, shop wisely. Be sure you are purchasing from a secure site and review emailed statements for accuracy as you receive them.

4. Make time your ally: The reason to start sooner rather than later is that when you delay, you pay. At last minute, you have to settle for something, and it might cost more than you wanted or planned to pay. After Christmas is a good time to shop for next year's presents.

You can find some great bargains right after the holidays. Then tuck those gifts away until next season (just don't forget about them!). Another benefit to starting early: It gives you more time to find the "right" gift and avoid impulsive decisions, which too often leave you less happy with your purchase.

5. Pay off debts quickly: You're less likely to overdo it if you pay in cash. If you must make holiday purchases using credit, use a lower-interest card (you'll often find lower rates on credit union cards) and pay off this debt as soon as possible early next year. Don't borrow more than vou can repay in several months. Remember that credit card debt is relatively expensive, and if you only make the required minimum monthly payment, you may never pay off the debt.



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Trooper to Trooper-

Taking the next steps

CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE MICHAEL TREDO

PORT SECURITY UNIT 311

eing in the military, we constantly hear Dabout leadership and what it means to our organizations. We also hear a lot about what it takes to be a leader. Often, we are challenged to emulate positive leadership qualities that we see in those we work with or to identify less desirable traits and make conscious efforts to stamp them out.

Now, a lot of time, this advice comes to us as encouragement from our senior leadership, mostly in the form of a pass-down. It is hard, especially for junior members, to know how to integrate these ideals when there exists a deficit of experience to develop their own effective leadership.

Experience helps, but leadership does not simply mean "being in charge." Rather, it means being accountable. For instance, if you've ever been part of a boat crew, fire team, office pool, etc., it should be apparent that we all have our particular strengths, and on the flip side, we all have our weaknesses. How we come to rely on each other is what sets us apart, particularly during times of duress.

Good leadership doesn't begin with the non-commissioned officer, nor does it flow from supervisor to subordinate. We also know that rank is no guarantee of leadership. So what does good leadership accomplish? That's simple enough – getting the mission done the right way.

The harder question to ask is how do we do it, and that means engaging each other. This requires stamina, patience and understanding because what follows will require extra effort on your part at some point in your career. Good leaders go the extra step, and great leaders take the next steps with their just the beginning of another. Subsequently,



Active listening. This is one of the ways we engage our fellow Troopers, but where many fall short is asking the question. Personal differences aside, it is a leader's job to be involved in the lives of those we work with and to ask questions so we can hear the answers.

Patience. We don't always have the answers, and many problems or situations can't be resolved overnight. Most issues we face aren't "to do" items to be crossed off a list. Instead, the completion of one task is part of being patient is humility. A humble leader knows when he does not have the answer but is resolved to find it. This may also mean relying on the council of subordinates. These are the instances that build trust in teamwork.

Stamina and sacrifice. This is where devotion to duty comes into play. We have all had to sacrifice personal time and energy, sometimes by direction of our superiors, but real leaders don't have to be asked. Real leaders don't shy away from the challenge or responsibility, and they do it repeatedly.

For instance, a Trooper might struggle with mastering advancement materials,

going through a divorce, fitness goals, depression, injury, etc. A good leader might direct a Trooper to a base resource. Great leaders will engage, listen, discuss, and patiently see the thing through to resolution with their fellow

By doing this, one not only sets the example for those he helps but also others around him. When we are there for others, they will be there for us. This is what keeps us mission ready, sets the standard, and sets us apart. I challenge you to take the next steps and see things through for your fellow Troopers.

PROTECT Your INFO!

Casual conversation can cause chaos!

Have you ever told someone that information was "off the record?" While you are here at Joint Task Force Guantanamo, there is no such thing as "off the record." You are a JTF Trooper 100 percent of the time, in or out of uniform, around family, friends, media or other base visitors. Perhaps you said, "You didn't hear this from me..." and then gave out information that you were told not to share. This type of casual conversation is a serious violation of OPSEC and can compromise an operation. If you divulge sensitive information, you can be held responsible for your actions and will certainly put your career in serious jeopardy. Ensure sensitive information that you've been entrusted with STAYS off the record. Practice rock solid OPSEC!

Downtown Lyceum	The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Paranormal Activity 4 (R) 10 p.m.	Rise of the Guardians (PG) 7 p.m. Flight (NEW) (R) 9 p.m.	Cloud Atlas (R) 7 p.m.	Argo (Last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	Here Comes the Boom (PG) 7 p.m.	Sinister (Last showing) (R) 7 p.m.	20 THU Wreck It Ralph (PG) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	No mov	vies. Cho	eck Face	book fo	r Lyceu	m updat	tes.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain's Office at 2323

or the JTF Chaplain's Office at 2309

NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

Daily Catholic Mass Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass

Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.

CHAPEL ANNEXES

Protestant Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Room B

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m. Room A

Islamic Service

Friday 1 p.m. Room 2

JTF TROOPER CHAPEL

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday 6 p.m.

GUANTANAMO BAY BUS SCHEDULI

All buses run on the hour, 7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Camp America :00 :20 :40 Gazebo:02:22:42 NEX Trailer: 03:23:43 Camp Delta 2:06:26:46

KB 373:10:30:50 TK 4:12:32:52

IAS :13 :33 :53

TK 3:14:34:54 TK 2:15:35:55

TK 1:16:36:56

West Iguana :18 :38 :58 Windjammer/Gym:21:41:01 Gold Hill Galley:24:44:04

NEX:26:46:16

96 Man Camp :31 :51 :11 NEX:33:53:13

Gold Hill Galley:37:57:17 Windjammer/Gym :36 :56 :16

West Iguana :39 :59 :19 TK 1:40:00:20

TK 2:43:03:23 TK 3:45:05:25 TK 4:47:07:27

KB 373:50:10:30

Camp Delta 1:52:12:32 IOF:54:14:34

NEX Trailer: 57:17:37

Gazebo:58:18:38

Camp America :00 :20 :40

SAFE RIDE — 84781

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NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHIDAY EXTRAVAGANZAI



1636 - 2012

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
National Guard Birthday Extravaganza
On Friday, December 21, 2012
4 p.m. at Phillips Dive Park

